

Application No.: 09/646,665  
Amendment Dated: November 20, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of: July 12, 2007

MAT-8014US

**Remarks/Arguments:**

Claims 1, 12-15, 25, 26 and 32-35 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Fujimoto (US 6,191,903). It is now submitted, however, that these claims are allowable for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... generating a fixed pattern comprising single 'm'  
multibit words...

... generating sync patterns...formed by combining the  
fixed pattern and one of the variable patterns...

The Official Action rejects Applicants' claims by taking the position that Fujimoto discloses the generation of a fixed pattern in Fujimoto's Fig. 3 (bits 0-7 and 8-15). Of particular relevance is the fact that "the Examiner interprets a word as one bit." (Office Action, page 2, 8 lines from the bottom of the page). Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify that their fixed pattern is comprised of at least one multibit word. As set forth in Applicants' specification at page 20, lines 15-18, Applicants' claimed features enable fewer bits to be used for sync patterns than in the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants' claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claims 25 and 34, while not identical to claim 1, are similarly patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

The remaining dependent claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

Claims 3-6 and 27-30 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimoto. These claims, however, are patentable over the art of record by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

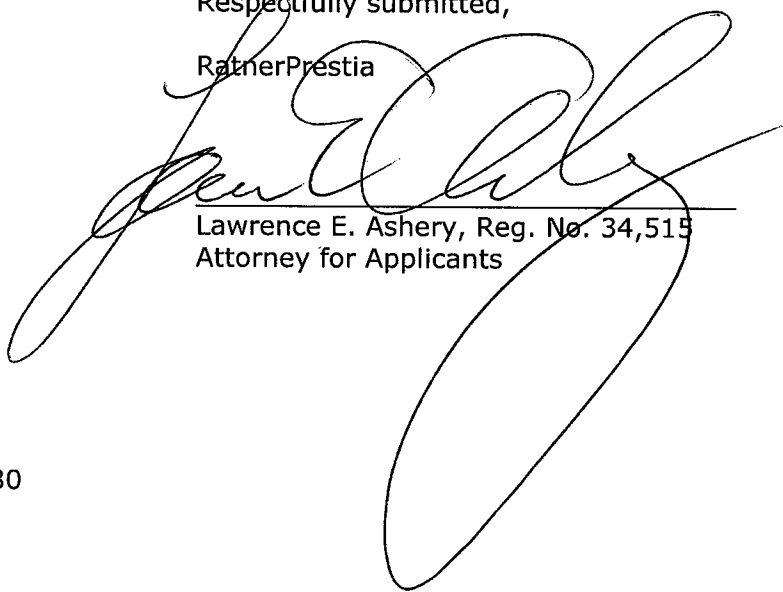
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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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